

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1787

A RESOLUTION commending the Republic of China's (Taiwan's) presidential election; supporting Taiwan's efforts to secure entry to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its signing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) with the United States; reaffirming support for increasing Taiwan's international profile; and for strengthening and expanding sister-state ties between Kansas and Taiwan.

WHEREAS, The state of Kansas is proud of the sister-state relationship it has enjoyed with Taiwan since 1989, marked by strong bilateral economic, social and cultural exchange and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan shares the same values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and peace and prosperity with the state of Kansas and the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, On January 16, 2016, Taiwan held its sixth direct presidential election, demonstrating again the strength and vitality of its democratic system and confirming that Taiwan is a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's third-largest trading partner. Taiwan is the tenth-largest trading partner of the United States, and bilateral trade reached \$67.4 billion in value in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Every other year, Taiwan has sent an agricultural trade goodwill mission to the U.S. Midwest region, including Kansas, to demonstrate Taiwan's continuing goodwill and willingness to purchase Kansas agricultural products, and the Kansas agricultural industry has benefited greatly over the past decades from the sale of beef, wheat and corn to Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the state of Kansas have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect of future growth, with Taiwan ranking as Kansas' third-largest import partner and the thirteenth-largest export market in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Agreement between Taiwan and the United States are an important step toward further strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way for entering into a Free Trade Agreement between our countries, thereby increasing Kansas' exports to Taiwan and creating bilateral investment through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation measures; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan, seeking to contribute to greater regional integration in the Asia-Pacific region and promoting bilateral investment and trade relations with the United States, applauds the United States' announcement to expand TPP membership in the future to include other countries, such as Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the TPP would contribute substantially to the depth, viability, and quality of the TPP. Taiwan's strong economic weight in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, its well-developed knowledge base and highly skilled workforce, its vital position along regional supply chains and value chains and its positive economic and strategic gains for all, make Taiwan an ideal candidate-economy for the TPP's expansion: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we commend and support Taiwan's mature and vital democracy; celebrate the 27th anniversary of sister-state relations with Taiwan; endorse the signing of the Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States; and continue to support Taiwan's appropriate participation in international organizations which impact the health, safety and well-being of its people; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send two enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Powell.

Senate Resolution No. 1787 was sponsored by Senator Larry Powell.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.